



Manchester Weed & Seed Strategy **COMMUNITY ACTION NEWSLETTER** March 2009



“WEEDING” Activities

The Manchester Police Department brought forth a proposal to establish a Sex Offender Compliance Check Program that will facilitate door-to-door checks at the residence of sex offenders to make certain they are compliant with their registration requirements, funded under the Weed & Seed Quality of Life Special Details.

Goal: The goal of this operation is to improve the quality of life of Manchester residents by providing them with the peace-of-mind and security of knowing that registered sex offenders in this community are being held accountable to their registration requirements – and that the Manchester Police Department is being attentive to their whereabouts and maintain an accurate public listing of sex offenders.

Problem Recognition:

- There are currently 353 registered sex offenders who register at the Manchester Police Department. There are 500 closed sex offender cases. This means that 500 have once lived in Manchester and have since checked out of city. (Thirty six of those are deceased.)
- Because of some legislative changes, tier III offenders are required to register four times per year. Tier I and Tier II offenders must register two times per year. Tier III offenders are considered to have committed the most serious offenses. Of our 353, 245 are tier III offenders. (Manchester is home to 15% of the State’s total sex offender population. Concord is next closest with approx. 180 offenders.)

“SEEDING” Activities



On March 2, the National Education Association is calling for every child to be reading in the company of a caring adult.

What better way to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday, then by reading to a child? The National Education Association annually sponsors Read Across America. Now in its twelfth year, the program focuses on motivating children to read, in addition to helping them master basic skills.

The nationwide reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, community centers, and more participate by bringing together kids and books, and you can too!

Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school.

Weed & Seed feels that the positive development of our children is so important, that we have partnered with Target Stores® to make possible a donation of 41 books each to Bakersville and Gossler Elementary Schools during the month of March. Staff from Target, along with W&S, will be at the schools to read from Dr. Seuss to demonstrate that reading is not only important to our future learning but teaches all of us the significance of FUN! So...

READ ACROSS AMERICA

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child."

“WEEDING” Activities cont.

- The Manchester Police Department has attempted to maintain a zero-tolerant registration program and has historically taken measures to conduct compliance checks. These checks are currently based in the Juvenile Unit where the registration program exists.

Problem Stated:

The Manchester Police Department is not in a position to conduct a satisfactory number of sex offender checks in a timely fashion that will meet the aforementioned goal.

Solution Summary:

The Department is proposing that for a five month trial period, February 09 through June 09, investigative teams consisting of 2 sworn officers, conduct compliance checks at the listed addresses. It is possible that every registered sex offender can receive a visit at least once in the next 5 months.

If this trial period is successful, this will assure that every offender will have had contact with a Manchester officer at least twice per year. This is in addition to the 2 – 4 contacts per year initiated by compliant offenders over the course of the year at the MPD as they fulfill their registration requirements.

The program will allow Investigative and Community Policing Personnel to focus on other tasks as this funding is expected to provide the added hours necessary to fulfill this mission.

This is not unlike our efforts directed toward prostitutions, graffiti, park patrols, skate park security, and directed details to night club shootings. All these programs were funded with a design to improve the quality of life in the Weed and Seed area. Each continues to have different levels of success.